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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Title: BUSINESS TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEMS AND METHOD

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please delete the two paragraphs on page 41, lines 7-11 and replace with the following paragraph (a marked up version of this paragraph is included in Attachment A).

Figure A-2 is an example of one embodiment of a multilevel business processing relationship to be modeled in an FSO business system;

Please delete the paragraphs on page 62, line 1 to page 66, line 15.

Please delete the paragraphs on page 66, lines 17 to 24 and replace with the following paragraphs (a marked up version of these paragraphs is included in Attachment A).

Figure A-2 - An example of one embodiment of a multilevel business processing relationship to be modeled in an FSO business system

Figure A-2 graphically illustrates one example of a multilevel business processing relationship that may be modeled in an FSO business system using a processing relationships configuration program according to one embodiment. An FSO user or any other person or persons familiar with the FSO organization may create a graphical diagram similar to Figure A-2 to reflect the FSO business organization.

Please delete the paragraph on page 68, lines 6 to 10 and replace with the following paragraph (a marked up version of this paragraph is included in Attachment A).

By using a processing relationships configuration program and its associated display screens, as described in Figures A-3 through A-9, the FSO user may configure the processing relationship structure. At the end of the configuration process, Figure A-9 may describe a processing relationship structure, which may be equivalent to the multilevel business processing relationship illustrated in Figure A-2.

Please delete the paragraph on page 68, lines 16 to 18 and replace with the following paragraph (a marked up version of this paragraph is included in Attachment A).

Figures A-3 through A-8 describe various embodiments of configuring the processing relationship structure, described in Figure A-2, using various interactive computer display screens generated by a processing relationship configuration program.

Please delete the paragraph on page 71, lines 10 to 18 and replace with the following paragraph (a marked up version of this paragraph is included in Attachment A).

Figure A-6 illustrates one embodiment of a screen 150 for the user configuration of processing relationships using a processing relationship configuration program in an FSO system. This example shows a processing relationship structure, such as that illustrated in Figure A-2, which has been fully defined. The descendents of a first node in the processing relationship structure may appear directly beneath the node; after the descendents of the first node, a second node on the same level may appear, and then the second node's dependents, and so on. One or more columns may be indented to represent the processing relationship structure's levels. In this example, the description fields are indented to represent the levels.

Please delete the paragraph on page 74, lines 1 to 15 and replace with the following paragraph (a marked up version of this paragraph is included in Attachment A).

Figure A-9 illustrates one embodiment of a computer model of the multilevel processing relationship structure illustrated in Figure A-2, showing the node identifiers assigned by a user, and the node numbers assigned by the processing relationship configuration program, to the nodes and node instances by the methods outlined in Figures A-3 through A-8. In the example shown in Figure A-9, the user has created instances of all the nodes, and assigned node identifiers to all of the nodes. All node instances have been assigned unique node numbers. Node 250, the root level node, and the only node on level zero, has been assigned a node number of 0. In one embodiment, the root level node may serve only as the root level node for the rest of the nodes in the processing relationship structure, and may not have an instance created. In one embodiment, nodes on level one may be specified as subsystem nodes. One instance of issuer node 252 at level one has been created and assigned a node identifier of 10 by the user, and a

node number of 1 by the processing relationship configuration program. One instance of acquirer node 254 at level one has been created and assigned a node identifier of 20 by the user and a node number of 14 by the processing relationship configuration program.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 75-123, 125-146, 148-185, 187-218, 220-267, 269-316, 318-355, 357-365, 367-394, 396-407, 409-440, 442-446, 448-464, 466-487, 489-492, 494-517, 519-564, 566-581 without prejudice.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fees are due, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Conley, Rose & Tayon Deposit Account No. 501505/5053-30802/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment A of the Preliminary Amendment

The following paragraph shows changes made by replacement of the paragraphs on page 41, lines 7-11.

[Figures A-2a through A-2e illustrate various embodiments of configuring a processing relationship structure that may be modeled after an FSO business organization structure;]

Figure A-2[f] is an example of one embodiment of a multilevel business processing relationship to be modeled in an FSO business system;

The following paragraphs show changes made by replacement of the paragraphs on page 66, lines 17-24.

Figure A-2[f] - An example of one embodiment of a multilevel business processing relationship to be modeled in an FSO business system

Figure A-2[f] graphically illustrates one example of a multilevel business processing relationship that may be modeled in an FSO business system using a processing relationships configuration program according to one embodiment. An FSO user or any other person or persons familiar with the FSO organization may create a graphical diagram similar to Figure A-2[f] to reflect the FSO business organization.

The following paragraph shows changes made by replacement of the paragraph on page 68, lines 6-10.

By using a processing relationships configuration program and its associated display screens, as described in Figures A-3 through A-9 [3-9], the FSO user may configure [conFigure

A-] the processing relationship structure. At the end of the configuration process, Figure A-9 may describe a processing relationship structure, which may be equivalent to the multilevel business processing relationship illustrated in Figure A-2[f].

The following paragraph shows changes made by replacement of the paragraph on page 68, lines 16-18.

Figures A-3 through A-8 [3-8] describe various embodiments of configuring the processing relationship structure, described in Figure A-2[f], using various interactive computer display screens generated by a processing relationship configuration program.

The following paragraph shows changes made by replacement of the paragraph on page 71, lines 10-18.

Figure A-6 illustrates one embodiment of a screen 150 for the user configuration of processing relationships using a processing relationship configuration program in an FSO system. This example shows a processing relationship structure, such as that illustrated in Figure A-2[f], which has been fully defined. The descendents of a first node in the processing relationship structure may appear directly beneath the node; after the descendents of the first node, a second node on the same level may appear, and then the second node's dependents, and so on. One or more columns may be indented to represent the processing relationship structure's levels. In this example, the description fields are indented to represent the levels.

The following paragraph shows changes made by replacement of the paragraph on page 74, lines 1-15.

Figure A-9 illustrates one embodiment of a computer model of the multilevel processing relationship structure illustrated in Figure A-2[f], showing the node identifiers assigned by a user, and the node numbers assigned by the processing relationship configuration program, to the nodes and node instances by the methods outlined in Figures A-3 through A-8. In the example shown in Figure A-9, the user has created instances of all the nodes, and assigned node identifiers to all of the nodes. All node instances have been assigned unique node numbers. Node 250, the root level node, and the only node on level zero, has been assigned a node number of 0. In one embodiment, the root level node may serve only as the root level node for the rest of the nodes in the processing relationship structure, and may not have an instance created. In one embodiment, nodes on level one may be specified as subsystem nodes. One instance of issuer node 252 at level one has been created and assigned a node identifier of 10 by the user, and a node number of 1 by the processing relationship configuration program. One instance of acquirer node 254 at level one has been created and assigned a node identifier of 20 by the user and a node number of 14 by the processing relationship configuration program.